

This year we celebrate the 39th Annual Earth Day on Wednesday, April 22nd. Earth Day is a day designated to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment and the role we play to protect it for future generations. It is also a day that gives us an opportunity to highlight the need to move towards a clean energy economy. In the coming weeks, the House will develop job creating legislation to make clean, renewable American energy a foundation for our economic recovery.

We are working hard to ensure the bill we send forward leads to broad backing by the House and Senate. America needs an energy policy that relies on resources that are clean, efficient and sustainable. We need to ensure this legislation strengthens the economy in the short-term and puts our nation on a long-term path to a sustainable economic future, which promotes clean energy technologies, low energy costs, cleaner industries, and greener jobs.

In order to ensure our national security, the health of our economy and the protecting of our environment for years to come, we must invest in new technologies and diversify our energy portfolio. We have already made substantial governmental investments in new clean energy jobs with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

On this Earth Day, as we commit to work towards protection of our planet and creating jobs for our workers by passing clean energy legislation, there are a few simple steps you can take in your daily life to be part of the solution.

What else can we do right now to conserve energy and lower monthly energy bills? Here are three simple things you can do right now:

- **Change light bulbs** - Compact Fluorescent Bulbs last significantly longer than standard light bulbs, and use much less electricity.
- **Turn off and unplug** - Turn off lights and electrical devices when they are not in use. Unplug unused electronics that may use current even when turned off. You can use a power strip with an on/off switch to disconnect several unused devices at once.
- **Adjust your thermostat** - You may not notice if your house is a few degrees warmer or cooler, but you will notice your heating and cooling bills change significantly. When you're not home, turn the heater down 10 degrees or more, or turn off the air conditioning.

Think, when you're not using energy, it's money in your pocket!

Conservation does not always require sacrifice. For instance, carpooling or biking to work can reduce carbon emissions more than buying a hybrid vehicle to drive alone. Improving home insulation, using a properly adjusted automatic thermostat, and switching to energy efficient lighting can save energy, and reduce home utility bills. We can eat locally grown, fresh food, and less frozen and processed foods, which require more energy to produce. We can use less, pay less, live healthier lifestyles, while at the same time doing our part to save the planet for future generations. Find more ways you can save energy and join in on [Earth Day](#) celebrations.